

Name of Project: **Elko County School District**

Wells Combined School

Name of Project Director: **Donna Webster, Principal** Address:

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Wells Combined School GEAR UP Abstract 2012-2013

Wells Combined School is located in Wells, Nevada where there is presently a total of 32 students in the cohort. According to the 2011-2012 statistics being reported for the 2011-2012 Accountability Report, 53% of students are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch Program and 29% of our students are Hispanic.

Wells will work to meet the four goals of Nevada GEAR UP. Goal 1) To significantly increase the number of low income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education; 2) To significantly increase GEAR UP students' and families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing; 3) To increase recruitment and enrollment of GEAR UP students in postsecondary education and 4) To raise expectations of GEAR UP middle school personnel so as to create a college-going culture that provides all students with the tools necessary to apply for and succeed in postsecondary education and future

As 7th graders, GEAR UP students will be exposed to college and career options. The use of interest inventories will be coordinated with job-shadowing activities matched to the students' highest indicated pathway results. Students will travel to area colleges in an effort to expose them to the possibilities of post-secondary education. Students will also be exposed to STEM and financial literacy education.

As outlined in our School Improvement Plan, professional development for staff will emphasize training in strategies to increase student engagement and academic achievement. These objectives will be applied to our GEAR UP cohort. The SPIF will be responsible for conducting weekly reviews of student's progress, and to take appropriate intervention steps as needed.

Parent involvement will be a critical component to the success of our project. A minimum of two parent nights will be conducted. Activities will include ensuring all parents understand and have signed the GEAR UP agreement and offering learning opportunities for parents in terms of academic planning and financial literacy.

Particular attention will be made to providing our middle school faculty with professional development opportunities specific to STEM education. As this is our first time participating in GEAR UP, personnel will work closely with Owyhee personnel and Central Office Administration to ensure compliance and effective implementation.